



"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be." - Jn 14:2-3

5th Sunday of Easter/May 10, 2020

First Reading:

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. (Acts 6:7a)

Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33) or Alleluia

Second Reading:

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Pt 2:9)

Gospel:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6)

Readings for the week of May 10, 2020

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 [1ab]/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 [2a]/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Staying Connected

Phone messages and emails are being checked on a regular basis. Please call or email St. John's if you have any questions or concerns.

Offertory Envelopes or donation can be mailed to the Church office.

Check our website for links to Fr. George's online Masses and other related information.

If you are not online and would like to receive a bulletin or know someone that would please contact the office.

Faith Formation Resources for Families

~Receive **important updates and faith inspiration** from our three parishes (St. James, St. John the Baptist in Valatie, and The Church of St. Joseph in Stottville and Stuyvesant Falls) by following us on Instagram. Search for **@ccncc518**. Our posts will be geared more toward the young people of our parishes, but everyone is welcome to subscribe!



Celebrating Our First Eucharist Candidates

Mother's Day Weekend, the following young people were scheduled to receive First Eucharist. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Henry Antalek

Emma Cabral

Alysha Coulston

Cooper DeSanctis

Erin Finn

Annabelle Griesemer

Aurora Heimroth

De Witt Hoff

Jameison Jablanski

Brynn McDonald

Graeme Nelson

Adrianna Pommills

Abigail Scharoun

Evan Shull

Liam Stevens

Addison Svensson

Kaylin Zanolli

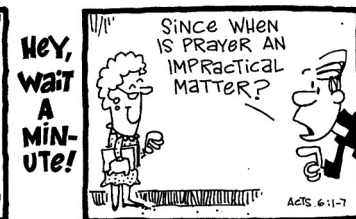
Did you know that St. John's offer the option for online giving? This feature enables you to easily make donation payments, and pledges to our parish-especially now during this time of social distancing, when buildings are closed. Online giving has numerous advantages:

- No need to bother with checks or cash
- Web-based access 24/7
- Easily schedule recurring donations to coincide with your pay period
- Credit card option, which enables you to take advantage of rewards such as air miles or cash bonuses
- No need to share bank account information because it's entered directly into the Online Giving secure site
- Ability to give if you're unable to attend Mass
- Contribution amount is easily adjusted as needed
- Option to remain anonymous

To access St. John's online banking or to find out more, please visit the following link via our parish website:

<https://www.osvhub.com/stjohnsvalatie/funds>

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER





Pastor's Blog

*"Her radiance never ceases.
Although she is but one,
she can do all things,
and while remaining in herself,
she renews all things;
in every generation she passes into holy souls." ~Wisdom 7:10, 27*

Before I begin my Pastor's Blog this week, I would like to take a moment to join with all of us on this Mother's Day weekend to remember and thank all the mothers and maternal figures who continue to inspire and support us. A priest friend who has been watching some of my homilies and talks online recently teased me about mentioning my mother again. I have not consciously tried to evoke her memory, but I think the uncertainty of our current situation has brought my memories to the surface. I sentimentally remember a time when life was safe and more innocent. Most of all, my prayers cling to her as I try to give support to all of you. Saturday, May 9th would have been my mother's 87th birthday — and it's hard to believe that she passed from this life nearly 30 years ago. She is always with me, and my prayer this weekend is that your loved ones, especially your mothers, are close to your hearts if not present to you. For all of you who have lost a mother, or mothers who have lost a loved one, please know that you will especially be in my thoughts and prayers.

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If there were not, would I have told you
that I am going to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
so that where I am you also may be.
Where I am going you know the way.'
Thomas said to him, 'Master, we do not know
where you are going; how can we know the way?'
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
If you know me, then you will also know my Father.
From now on you do know him and have seen him.'"
~John 14:1-7*

If you have ever lived through dinner speeches, you know that they can be long! Such is also the case with The Last Supper Discourse, which lasts for five full chapters in John's Gospel (John 13-17). That is the same length of John's Passion account and the Resurrection stories combined. It is rich and full of theology and pastoral insight, beginning with the washing of the disciples' feet — which shows us the path to servant leadership. When we interpret these passages side by side with the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), we see Jesus in a new light — especially when joining our understanding of the sharing of the Bread and the Wine, which will foreshadow our Eucharistic understanding of Christ always being with us, particularly present in the Sacrament.

The thirteenth chapter begins the discourse with what would have been shocking: the washing of the feet and the mind-blowing announcement that one of the twelve would betray him. Jesus felt their uncertainty and confusion and desired to prepare them for the coming days; not only the Passion but also the splendor of the Resurrection. The disciples needed the lengthy discourse to process what was happening and to come to terms with their situation.

Like the disciples, Jesus lovingly attempts to calm our troubled hearts by encouraging us to reach out to our faith in God. Interestingly, we take for granted that Jesus and the Father (as well as the Holy Spirit) are One — but this was not within the realm of understanding that the disciples lived. Jesus is bringing them a personalized, familiar face of God that they may have envisioned as being distant and aloof. He is sharing with them the love of God. Once Jesus invites the disciples to see him as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," he will next invite them to understand that their image of God will be transformed because they will see the Father in the same way that they see their loving companion.

In our world today, our time distanced from each other is filling us with uncertainty and fear, but it is also a time of processing and prayer. It is a lengthy period where we take stock of our present situation but also our past and future. We are disciples who form a community as well as individuals yearning for understanding and hope. Jesus offers us this. May God bless you and keep you! ~Fr. George

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep in your prayers the sick and homebound of our parish and those who care for them:

Anonymous, Paul Amyot, Oksana Bajko, Joan Bellanger, Michael Birmingham, Sylvia Boulger, John Brady, Charlotte Chase, Eleanor Chase, Major Jeffrey Chase, Susan E. Cotsonas, Barbara Domigan, Michael Doyle, Beth Drzymala, Sammy Evans, Gianni Farinacci, Concetta Florantino, Michelle Foutch, Donald Gaylord, Mary Ann Goodine, Lesha Hardgraves, Robert Havelka, Mary Hayes, Ed Helfer, William Hernandez, David Jaffarian, Craig Kingsley, Doug LaBudde, Jack Law Jr., Pinky Laviano, Kristen Law, Kevin M. Lynch, William Lindberg, Dominick Lizzi, Cindy Mahony, Erica Matthies, Kevin McCann, Gary McDonald, Edin Mercado, Marianne Martinez, Judy Martino, Kaylee Rose Meyer, Luba Mykytiw, Amelia Nabozny, Richard Norton, David Nichlos, Rita Paladino, Tommy Palmer, Elise Panico, Bonnie Pelizza, David Picchione, Pam Polashenski, Helen Rayve, Claire Renn, Tim Renn, William Robinson, Lisa Rossello, Dawn Ruchel, Rita Ryan, Alice Salvatore, Eileen Scott, Maddi Sidarous, Ralph Siter, Special Intentions, Bonnie Sperl, Sean Spicer, Kevin Sutton, Joan Torcello, Nancy Troutman, Matthew West, Edward Wheeler, Dan Wiltse, Marybeth Wiltse, Gary Wickes, Chrissy Wills, Carol Wisenhunt, Veronica Wistar, Robert Woodward, Erica Wordon

Please contact the Parish Office (758-9401) when it is appropriate to remove a name from this list.

St. John's Mass Intentions

During this time when all Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany have been cancelled until further notice, please know that our Pastor, Rev. George Fleming, is holding everyone in prayer and will continue to celebrate daily liturgies in private, paying special attention to the Mass intentions of the day. All Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

**Red Cross Blood Drive
At St. John the Baptist-Valatie**

Wednesday, May 13

From 1:00pm to 7:00pm

Please call 1-800-REDCROSS to set up an appointment.